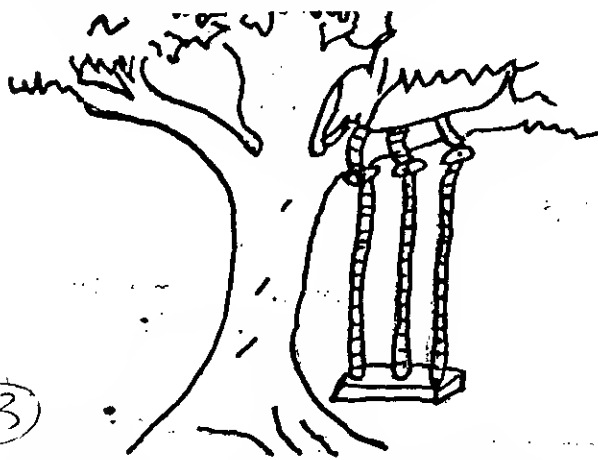
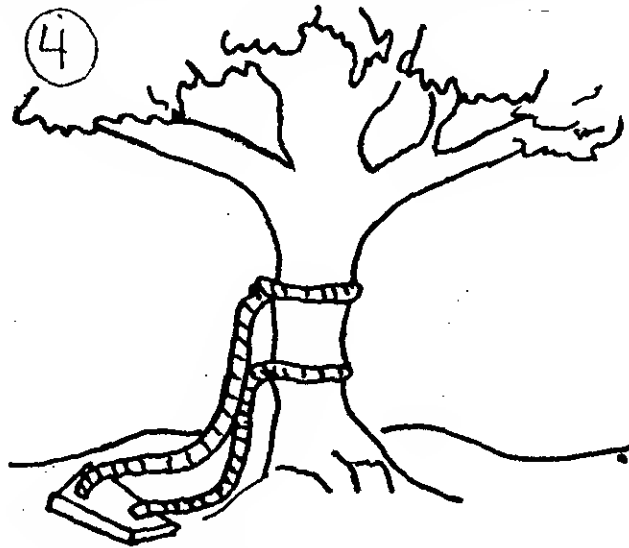


① What Students Wanted

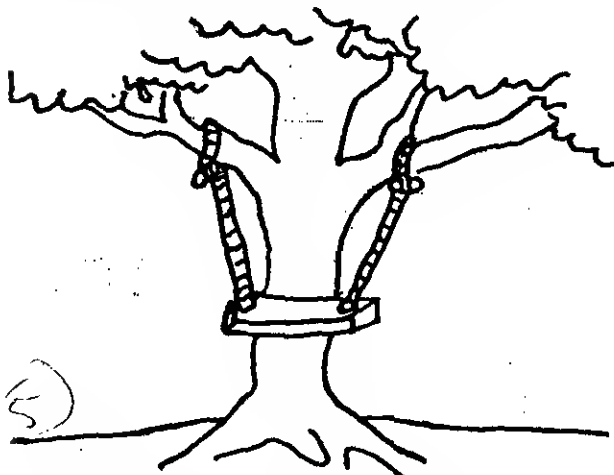
② As The Teacher Requested It



③ As Department Head Ordered It



④ As Principal Designed It



⑤ As District Built It

Murd'ring  
Ministers

April 2, 1992

\* 45

## STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS is published by Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304. Phone (805) 834-8409. MM is a gamezine dedicated to the play of postal DIPLOMACY, a game owned by the Avalon Hill Game Co.. Subscriptions are \$5.50/12 issues and cost 50¢/issue if purchased in smaller increments. MM is published monthly.

Ahhh, DIPLOMACY is such fun to play! I've really enjoyed, for the most part, all the games I've played in. Most of my current games are in about 1905-1907 as I started a whole slew of games in 1980. As my hobby time began backsliding thereafter I've taken care to restrict my new gamestarts. I've only one game with an '81 Boardman Number and have thus far not started any in '82. I seriously doubt if I will begin a new game until 1983! But I just thought I'd take a moment to share these few thoughts with you and ramble for a bit. You see, I've been involved in postal DIP since late '76 (not long by some standards) and I must say I am enjoying the hobby as much as ever. (oops! I'm not supposed to call it that anymore, right Caruso? I mean "Dipdom"0. In some of my current games I've really taken some beautiful stabs. And there are a couple I've managed to pull off. Great fun. Really.

You will undoubtedly be reading this issue a few days later than I had planned. Char and I both have the week off (April 5-9) and will be leaving tomorrow (SUN. 4/4) for a trip to San Francisco and Monterey. I will work as late as I can tonight (Sat) on it but I know I won't be able to complete it. So I won't be mailing this issue until Sat or Sun April 10thish. Sorry for the delay but this is the first vacation we've had since we've been married and Char has put her foot down. Hope you all understand . . . the deadline for all games will remain May 7th . . .

Three days before the real WHITESTONIA #46 was mailed from Long Island a fake W#46 was sent from Utica, NY. The fake was a good representation of W and had me fooled. I thought it peculiar when I read of the \$1.50/issue price (the real W goes for 1/3 of that!), but otherwise passed as a clever fake. There were a few other subtle differences I didn't notice until after the real one arrived. Apparently John Caruso knew about it ahead of time as his headline on the real 46 read, "This One Is Real!" Alright, who done it?

Jack Masters sent out on April 1st a copy of PTERODACTYL #1 (AKA BLACK FROG #57) a ratings zine. Jack states, "I have not just flat 'quit' the hobby as has been reported . . . And I am going to conclude some of the hobby projects that I started." One of these is the MCPC (Modern Calhamer Point Count). There are 295 names on the complete alphabetical list. Jack estimates "that over 1200 players were involved as players in the games included in the MCPC. Thus, just making the alphabetical list at all, places one in the top 25% of the contemporary hobby." The games included in the ratings begin with 1976A and includes all those thereafter through EVERYTHING #51. Jack says at this point (this is the 4th update) he will turn this project over to Keith Sherwood. Some MM readers who made the listing include: Jack Masters-5 3/6 (tied for 1st place!); John Caruso-4 2/6; Don Ditter-4 0/6; Bob Sergeant-3 3/6; Kathy Byrne-3 0/6; Ron Brown (MM)-2 4/6; John Michalski-2 4/6; Ron Kelly-2 2/6; Dick Martin-2 1/6; Bill Schiwautz-2 0/6; Mary Beck- 3/6; Mark Berch-1 1/6; Doug Beyerlein- 5/6; Ron Brown (Ont)- 3/6; Jim Bumpas-1 0/6; Dave Carter- 2/6; Gary Coughlan- 4/6; Jack Fleming- 1/6; Steve Heinowski-1 4/6; Roy Henricks-1 0/6; Stephen Lee-1 3/6; Bruce Linsey-1 0/6; Tom Mainardi- 3/6; Keith Mercer- 2/6; Mike Mills- 1/6; Ralph Moton-1 0/6; Bob Olsen- 3/6; Dan Palter-1 2/6; Al Pearson-1 0/6; Clark Reynolds- 5/6; Don Swartz- 2/6.

The complete listing of 295 players MCP's is available for \$1.00 form Jack Masters, 25711 N. Vista Fairways Dr., Valencia, CA 91355. Any further questions about it should be referred to Keith Sherwood.

((Con'd on pg. 7))

## THE GAMES!!

1980KZ WINTER 1906

England- No Adj

France- Disbands A Tus

Germany- A Vie-r-BOH

Italy- No Adj

Turkey- Builds A CON, A ANK, F SMY

1980KZ - GM Notes: Last time French A TUS-Ven was incorrect and should have read A TUS-Pie; also German A Tya-Pie should have been A TYA-Pie; players were notified.  
 1980KZ SPRING 1907 CAN THE SULTAN & HIS ITALIAN SIDEKICK BE STOPPED?

England (Kelly): F Iri-NAT; A Lon-HOL; F NTH-c-A Lon-Hol; A Nwy-FIN; F StP(no)-NWY.

France (Sperdakos): F BRE-H; F SPA(sc)-H; F TUN-H; F Tys-LYO.

Germany (Stephens): A Bel-PIC; A PAR-s-A Bel-Pic; F DEN-H; F BAL-H; A LVN-War; A War-SIL; A Tya-VIE; A BOH-s-A Tya-Vie; A MUN-Tya.

Italy (Hugh): A GAS-Spa; A VEN-s-Turkish A Tri-Tya; A Rom-TUS; F Nap-TYS.

Turkey (Masters): A Mos-WAR; A UKR-s-A Mos-War; A Bud-GAL; A Vie-e-A Bud-Gal/d/-r-Bud,OTB; A Tri-TYA; F Alb-TRI; F ADR-s-Italiana Ven; F APU-s-F Ion; F ION-s-Italian F Nap-Tys; F Smy-AEG; A Ank-ARM; A Con-BUL.

Fall 1907 due May 7, 1982. Thanks to Ron Kelly for taking the reins of England.

1980KZ Press-

ANKARA: Since the mail service in the capitols of Germany, France, England, and Italy has been interrupted for several years; the Sultan has ordered his forces westward. In a benevolent gesture in order to restore postal service to these great powers. If any great power is capable of restoring postal service on its own; please inform the Sultan as soon as possible — so he can direct his forces elsewhere where they would be of greater use.

ITALY-FRANCE: Well, it's finally come down to you and me - me and you! Is there a lesson to be learned? Ask Ron Brown — He's an expert in diplomatic endeavors. Why do you now ask me for help?

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1981D WINTER 1906

England- No Adj

France- No Adj

Germany- A Vie-r-GAL

Italy- F Wes-r-NAF; A Tya-r-VEN

Turkey- Builds A CON

1981D GM Note: Last time English F Wes-TEN should have read F NAF-TUN; players were notified.

1981D SPRING 1907 THREE RETREATS & ONE ANNIHILATION AS THINGS HEAT UP! FOUR ANGLO-GERMAN ARMIES TEAM UP TO LEVEL MOSCOW AND EXTERMINATE TURKISH TROOPS!

England (Arnawoodian): A StP-MOS; A LVN-s-A StP-Mos; F Tun-TYS; F Spa(sc)-LYO; F WES-s-F Spa(sc)-Lyo; F Por-SPA9sc; F ENG-Mid; F NTH-Eng; A Wal-LON.

France (Kelly): A Bre-PIC; A PAR-s-A Bre-Pic.

Germany (Langley): A Pic-Par/d/-r-Bel.OTB; A BUR-Mar; A WAR-s-English A StP-Mos; A UKR-s-English A StP-Mos; A GAL-s-A Ukr; A BOH-s-A Gal; A Tya-s-A Boh/d/-r-Mun,Pie,TRI,OTB.

Italy (Filbeck): A Pie-MAR; A GAS-s-A Pie-Mar; F Lyo-s-A Pie-Mar/d/-r-Tus,Pie,OTB; A BUD-Gal; F NAF-Mid; A Ven-TYA; A VIE-s-A Ven-Tya; F GRE-Ion; F GRE-Alb/amb/.

Turkey (Ethington): A Mos-s-A Sev/a/; A SEV-s-A Mos; A Con-RUM; F BLA-c-A Con-Rum; F Rum-BUL(ec); F AEG-H; F EAS-H.

Fall 1907 due May 7, 1982.

((1981D Press on next page.))

## 1981D Press-

GERMANY-TURKEY: The time is coming for you to pay for the use of Moscow. Since I won't be the one to collect, I hope we can still be friends.

GERMANY-ENGLAND: Emulate the turtle!

ENGLAND-ITALY: Thanks for the vote of confidence!

GERMANY-ITALY: Pope Brucie, if you let me into Marsailles this time, you will have really blown my plane for the coming fall.

CRAZY TURK-WORLD: Hold on France, I'm coming! Hahahahahahahahahahahahahahahahahahah!

SWITZERLAND: Despite predictions of rapid Turkish growth, the Turkish fortunes appear to be about to plunge sharply. It would seem that Italy and Turkey have shelved their differences to join common cause against the English-German alliance that is starting to sweep them from the board. France is about to join Austria and Russia. Can Turkey be far behind?

1981AP FALL 1906 FRENCH PRESIENT VANISHES AGAIN! POPE'S FORCES CINTINUE VICTORIOUS MARCH!

Austria (Hugh): No Units.  
 England (Gray): F Cly-NWG; A Wal-YOR; F NTH-Nwy; A DEN-Swe; F KIE-Ber; F HEL-Kie.  
 France (Mainardi): NMR! A Bre-H/d/-r-Pic, Gas, OTB; A BLR, A MUN, F BAR-H.  
 Italy (Williams): F Mid-BRE; A PAR-s-F Mid-Bre; A POR-H; F Wes-MID; F Lyo-MAR; A TYA-Vie; A TRI-s-A Bud; A BLD-s-Turkish A Bul-Rum.  
 Russia (Hartman): F NWY-Swe; A BER-Mun; A SIL-DOH; A GAL-Vie; A Rum-Gal/a/; A SEV-Rum; A UKR-s-A Sev-Rum; A Arm-Sev/d/-r-Syr, OTB.  
 Turkey (Haffey): A Bul-RUM; A SER-s-A Bul-Rum; F Gre-ALB; F SMY-H; A Ank-ARM; F BLA-s-A Ank-Arm.

Winter 1906 AND Spring 1907 due May 7, 1982. Thanks to Keith Mercer for the English standby moves which were not needed.

\*Would Keith Mercer, R.D.#6, Old Ash Rd., Mercer, PA 16137 please submit standby orders for France?

1981AP 1906 Supply Center Chart

Austria- <del>Via</del> .....	(0)	OUT
England- Home, Den, Hol, Kie.....	(6)	0
France- <del>Via</del> , <del>Vie</del> , <del>Via</del> , Bel, Mun.....	(2)	-2
Italy- Home, Tun, Tri, Vie, Mar, Spa, POR, BRE, PAR.....	(11)	+3
Russia- Home, <del>Via</del> , Swe, Nwy, Ber.....	(7)	0
Turkey- Home, Bul, Gre, Ser, RUM.....	(7)	+1

1981AP Press-

ROME-MOSCOW: Sorry, Allen. Even us loyal subbers need a letter once every 2 months.

ANKARA: The Sultan is happy to see that a new Tsar may rule in Russia. Perhaps he will simply surrender his units or better yet, paint them yellow and go to Siberia.

ROME-AUSTRIA-IN-EXILE: Farewell, Warrior! The Italian armed forces salute your gallant efforts to turn back three mighty armies with only a small unit of men.

You have won the respect of the Italian Army, the Italian people, and the Pope. Perhaps someday we may meet again, at a time when our nations are not rended by war, and we can bring a new understanding between our people. Until then, may your road be smooth and your pack light. Arriva Derci!

\* "No ceremony that to great ones 'longs,  
 Not the king's crown, nor the deputed  
 sword,  
 The marshal's truncheon, nor the  
 judge's robe,  
 Become them with one half so good a  
 grace  
 As mercy does."

1981AD SUMMER 1905 French F Dre-r-OTB.

1981AD FALL 1905 EUROPE REFUSES ENGLISH OFFER TO RULE! NEW BATTLES ERUPT!

England (Fleming): F Mid-POR; F Eng-NTH; F DRE-H; F Nth-NWY; F Hol-HEL; A KIE-s-French A Ruh-Mun; F Den-SKA.  
 France (Gorham): A RUM-Mun; A BUR-s-A Ruh-Mun; A BEL-Ruh; A Mar-PIE.  
 Italy (Lucas): A ALB-Tri; A VEN-s-A Alb-Tri; A SER-s-A Alb-Tri; F Ion-ADR; F Tun-TYS; F NAP-s-F Tun-Tys.  
 Russia (Heinowski): A SIL-Mun; A BER-s-A Sil-Mun; A TYA-s-A Sil-Mun; F BAL-H; A Fin-SWE; A Sev-RUM; F ANK-Con; F BLA-s-F Ank-Con; A TRI-s-Italian A Ser; A VIE-s-A Tri; A BUD-s-A Tri.  
 Turkey (Arnawoodian): F Tys-ION; A GRE-s-Austrian A Ser/NSU/; F AEG-Con; A BUL-s-F Aeg-Con.

Winter 1905 AND Spring 1906 are due May 7, 1982. The concession to England has been repropoed. Please vote with your next orders; 'NVR'='yes' vote.

#### 1981AD 1905 Supply Center Chart

England- Home, Nwy, Den, Kie, Hol, BRE, POR,.....	(9)+2
France- <del>Par</del> , Par, Mar, <del>Spa</del> , Spa, Bel,.....	(4) 0
Italy- Home, <del>Tun</del> , Tun, Ser,.....	(5)-1
Russia- Home, Rum, Swe, Ber, Vie, Mun, Bud, Ank, TRI....	(12)+1
Turkey- Smy, Con, Bul, Gre,.....	(4) 0

#### 1981AD Press-

RUSSIA-ITALY: I don't know?? We just can't seem to match up our mailings properly. I will put a stop to things status quo for now, maybe this month . . .

ITALY-ENGLAND: Sorry, Jack, thought your logic about the concession was faultless, so I voted no. The real battles are about to start!

PARIS: Wow! What a time to hold a revolution and take over France - Now I can see why the old King didn't oppose the new order! Oh well! Long live France, and man the walls of Paris! PS- As a new King, can I have a small castle in Switzerland, if we vote to surrender to either England or Russia?

TURK-WORLD: I say we give Fleming the game. I'm sure he will remember us, when he comes in to standby in a game we began and vote yes for a concession to our country.

RUSSIA-ENGLAND: Just a touch of paranoia; sorry about that but ask anyone, they'll tell you I'm a bit touched.

RUSSIA-TURKEY: Now it's Rum or Con - one season does not a game make, unless you dictate no other choice.

#### 1980IX FALL 1907 DRAW FAILS! CAN E-F-G STOP THE GIANTS?

England (Schwautz): F Cly-NWG; F HOL-Nth; A EDI-H; F HEL-Den; F SPA(sc)-Lyo; F MID-Wes.  
 France (McCloud): A DEN-Swe; F SKA-s-A Den-Swe; F NAT-s-English F Cly-Nwg; A KIE-s-German A Ber; A BUR-Mun; A Gas-MAR.  
 Germany (Heinowski): F BAL-s-English A Den-Swe/NSU/; A BER-waves bye-bye-H.  
 Italy (Pearson): A PIE-H; F Wes-NAF; F TYS-Wes; F LYC-s-F TYS-Wes; A TYA-s-Russian A Boh-Mun; A TRI-prays-H; F Bul(sc)-AEG; F SMY-H; A Gre-BUL.  
 Russia (Cunningham): F NWg-Nth/d/-r-Bar,OTB; A NWY-s-A Swe; A SWE-s-A Nwy; F StP(sc)-LVN; A PRU-Ber; A SIL-s-A Pru-Ber; A Boh-MUN; A VIE-Bud; A RUM-Bud; F CON-s-A Ank; A ANK-s-F Con.

Winter 1907 AND Spring 1908 are due May 7, 1982.

The I-R draw proposal has been repeated. Please vote with your next orders.

#### 1980IX 1907 Supply Center Chart

England- Home, <del>Den</del> , Hol, Spa,.....	(5)-1
France- Home, Por, Bel, Kie, DEN,.....	(7)+1
Germany- Ber, <del>Mun</del> ,.....	(1)-1
Italy- Home, Tun, Gre, Tri, Smy, Ser, Bul,.....	(9) 0
Russia- Home, Rum, Swe, Bud, Con, Ank, Nwy, Vie, MUN,.....	(12)+1

((80IX Press on next pg.))

1980IX Press-

GERMANY-GM: Don't you just hate it when some two-~~1/2~~ center country votes "no" to the draw?

ROME: George, you deserve a stab more than anyone I know.

LONDON-BERLIN: Thank you! If not here your reward will be in heaven.

RUSSIA-NATIONS OF EUROPE: I'm sorry that I haven't been corresponding much, but I'm in the process of changing jobs and this has been taking up much of my time and effort. I am willing to listen to reason to bring this game to a speedy conclusion. No reasonable offers will be refused.

GERMANY-ITALY: Hummmmmmm . . . Italian dynamics . . .

RUSSIA-ENGLAND & FRANCE: As I'm interested in finishing this game as quickly as possible, I'm voting "yes" to the I-R draw. As I am a reasonable man, I am willing to consider draws including a larger number of players. Anyone interested?

ITALY-FRANCE: Larry, 1/2 or a 2 way draw is better than 1/3 of a 3 way draw.

LONDON-MOSCOW: You can't always have it your own way. Also you broke three treaties with me, do you classify that under "usually"?

RUSSIA-GERMANY: I hope you weren't accusing me of stealing the Frankenstein formula. After all, did I take Denmark from you? Did I take Holland or Kiel? You've got some nerve, let me tell you. And after I supported your last army in Munich I think you took the Frankenstein formula, and I aim to find it!

GERMANY-FRANCE: Where were you in 1902? Or was that '03?

LONDON-ROME: Hope you did the right thing!

\* \* \* \* \*

1981AY SUMMER 1904 German A Bur-r-RUH; Russian A Ser-r-OTB/NRR!/.

1981AY FALL 1904 RUSSKIES FORGET TO GIVE ORDERS - LOSE THREE HOME CENTERS!!

Austria (Lucas): A VIE-Gal; A BUD-Ser; F ADR-H; A Ser-RUM.

England (Hartman): F Wes-NAf/a; A BEL-H; F IRI-Mid; F ENG-Bre; F Nwy-NTH.

France (Winger): A Par-PIC; A BUR-s-A Par-Pic; A BRE-s-A Par-Pic; A Mar-SPA; F POR-Mid.

Germany (Albrecht): A RUH-H; A MUN-s-A Ruh; F Bal-BER; F Lvn-BAL; A STP-Mos; A Sil-WAR.

Russia (Beck): NMR! F Rum-H/d/-r-Bla,OTB; A PRU, A MOS, A GAL - H.

Turkey (Halls): F Tun-WES; F NAF-s-F Tun-Wes; F Tys-LYO; F Ion-TYS; A GRE-Ser; A BUL-s-Austrian A Ser-Rum; F Bla-SEV; A ARM-s-F Bla-Sev.

Winter 1904 AND Spring 1905 due May 7, 1982. \*Would Dan Gorham, 1365 Edgecliffe Apt.3, Los Angeles, CA 90026 please standby for Russia?

1981AY 1904 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Home, Ven, RUM	(5)+1
England- Home, Bel, Nwy	(5)+1 (one short)
France- Home, Spa, Por	(5) 0
Germany- Home, Den, Hol, Swe, WAR, STP	(8)+2
Russia- <del>Sty, War, Ser</del> , Mos, <del>Rum</del> , Ser	(2)-2
Turkey- Home, Bul, Gre, Nap, Tun, Rom, SEV	(9)+1

1981AY Press-

AUSTRIA-PARIS: It looks like the free speech movements in our two counties are the only ones capable of producing press. We must be winning. How come it doesn't feel like it?

PARIS: UPI reports excessive activity in the French capitol has overloaded the creative capacity of the Fourth Estate, so Parisian press will be . . .

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"One fire burns out another's burning,  
One pain is lessen'd by another's anguish."

ROMEO AND JULIET I, 11, 47.

## MORE STUFF

Mark Berch, 492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304 has published "The Son of Lexicon" as DIPLOMACY DIGEST #57. This is the sequel to "The Lexicon of DIPLOMACY". You can get it two ways: 1) Either sub to DD asking your sub begin with #57. 2) Or send 50¢ for just this issue. Copies of the original Lexicon are available for \$1.25 also. Strongly recommend for you to get these!

Larry Peery, PO Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102 has announced the publication of THE BLACK AND BLUE BOOK, a listing of some 200 DIPLOMACY players (both FTF and FBM) publishers, and services/organizations in and for Californians. Larry states, "This 40+ page publication contains background info on California Dippy, a proposal for a major Dippy convention here in California this summer, a proposal for a California Diplomacy newsletter, and articles on the BBB and its use." A subscription to the California Diplomacy Registry & Directory Service, which includes the latest edition of the BBB, any up-dating supplements, a subscription to the newsletter, and registry in the Directory is \$6.00 per year for Californians and that includes first class postage. Individual copies of the BBB are \$3.00. Write to Larry at the above address if you're interested.

Allen Wells (remember him? He NMR'd out of 81AP) in his latest issue of DOT HAPPY (#14) stated that he was folding because he had run over a dog on the Mass Turnpike and the depression was too much for him. He went on to say that he was turning over all of his games to Mark Berch! What's going on, you say? Well, on the last page Allen explains that it's just his April Fool's joke! DH will be continuing. I'm sure all of his subbers are glad about that.

Dick Martin, 6103 Breezewood Court Apt 202, Greenbelt, MD 20770 publishes RETALIATION. Dick had been having some problems recently, however, in finding an adequate printing source. In fact, RET has only come out twice since the Nov. 7 '81 issue. We hope things even out for ol' Crud soon. We miss our RETAL's!

Another enjoyable zine that has had its problems lately is Konrad Baumeister's GIVE ME A WEAPON!. Konrad's latest issue #13 of 3/21 explained that a lot of unforeseen difficulties have arisen in the past couple months or so. Hang in there Konrad! Believe me, I know what it's like. Things will work themselves out. You can write Konrad at Box 6050 Henle Hall, Georgetown University, Washington DC 20057. You might mention to him that Georgetown's fine center, Pat Ewing is the best freshman basketball player in the country, in my own humble opinion. That might help brighten his day!

Anyone wishing to see a sample of DIPLOMACY WORLD may have one by dropping a postcard to Rod Walker, 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024 and ask for one. The "sampler" consists of 11 pages out of DW #30, the Spring issue. You should subscribe if you don't. DW costs only \$6.00/yr. (4 issues).

Mike Mills, 47 Mayer Dr., Suffern, NY 10901 has announced that the new ZINE DIRECTORIES are out. The cost is \$1.00 and they are available from Mike at the above address. The ZD lists all known DIPLOMACY zines and gives vital information concerning them. A very useful reference for the serious postal DIP player!

Mike also mentions that he is reviving EMHAIN MACHA in May! EM was always one of my favorite zines and I will, for one, be eagerly awaiting its return! More information on this when it's known. . .

Did you like the cover on this issue? The Snoopy cartoon is from the talented pen of Jim Williams. The other is a bit of teacher humor I wanted to share . . .

## READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES

(( Last issue I announced the switch to four week deadlines. I won't print them, but there were about five brief notes from subscribers in favor of the change. The only negative comment on it is the following letter from John Michalski . . . ))

Dear Ron,

I was sorry to hear of your switch to longer deadlines in MM, but if it helps keep the zine going, fine. I cannot but wonder at your statements regarding the NMRs, however. I would have thought someone with your hobby experience would know better than to say something as foolish as "longer deadlines will lessen NMRs". C'mon now, Ron. People NMR because they are lazy and disinterested, and fail to act until the deadline is imminent. If you extend the deadline, they will just dally longer. The dolts who wait 2½ weeks will now wait 3½ weeks instead, and will likely NMR more often than before! I can recall this "lesson" being noted in print by "old timer" publishers way back when I entered the hobby in 1976. (Robert Lipton's MIXUMAXU GAZETTE and Doug Reif's BLACK HOLE, for example). My own publishing experience confirms this by opposite example: I ran 2 week deadline games, 10 day deadline games, and one 7 day deadline game; I challenge any zine anywhere to match the BRUTUS BULLETIN record for low NMRs. The reason was obvious: high player interest. You don't get many dilly-dalliers with announced 14 or 10 day deadlines! Now I'm not suggesting you go that route: it's a killing pace to GM. However, as backup evidence, it's hard to refute. The final proof of the pudding will be in the eating though, 4 or 6 MMs from now. Then I'll be saying, "I told you so," but I want to lay the groundwork now.

If 4 (or 5) week deadlines are needed to keep MM going, so be it. But for NMRs? Ha!

John Michalski

- late DB

- Mos Eiseley Spaceport

(( First of all, let me say welcome back John! It's been too long since your last letter! Thank you for taking the time to let your feelings on the matter at hand to be known. Now I'd like to try and respond as best I can. I'm not sure I disagree with you . . . entirely anyway. Yes, I remember the old DB fast deadline games. In fact I remember 1979H very well. I wonder, though, if you can make such a generalization based solely upon DB games. The BRUTUS BULLETIN was a very high interest zine in every way; and I'm not sure that it was the fast deadlines that were responsible. I can remember many times during the aforementioned 79H wishing the deadlines were longer to allow more time for negotiating. The short deadlines are very conducive to Gunboat-type games but I'm not so sure they help stimulate a lot of correspondence between the players. And that's the part I enjoy most about a DIP game. During the last couple of years I've had requests for longer deadlines for just that reason: to allow more time for negotiations. I always stuck to the 3 week deadlines because there weren't that many zines using them and that's what I thought was the ideal. It tended to keep the game moving right along but at the same time it allowed time for exchanging letters. That's when the price of 1st class postage was 13¢ too. Now, the expense is a part of it. I tend to agree with you though about some people are going to NMR no matter how long or how short the deadlines are. But in my experience as a publisher, it has seemed to me that I've had fewer NMRs the several times that the deadline was extended a week or two for varying circumstances. You, of course, are correct. We'll see before long, 4 or 6 MMs down the line. You very well might be able to say, "I told you so". We'll see. Again, thanks very much for sharing your views. - RB ))

((RRR con'd next pg.))



RRR

(( from Gary Coughlan ))

Dear Ron,

I have fortified myself with Heineken beer (5 bottles worth), Mateus Rose (God only knows how much) and some of John Michalski's poison of Ameretto and Cognac to get myself into shape (???) to answer the infamous Bob Olsen's tirades which I found in my copy of MURD'RING MINISTERS #44. I fear, alas and alack, it is not enough.

Anyone who can use the phrase "once again" twice in the same sentence deserves only my pity. But I absolutely refuse to help Olsen write a letter of attack against me again. Let him do his own writing and make himself appear a fool to the entire DIPLOMACY world!

However, I must stare in all objectivity (I defy Olsen to be this lucid when he is as drunk as I am at this moment in history!) that his letters have slipped below even their usual sub-par level. I can only presume that it must be because he is anticipating the Wichita River Festival where there is a parade of 50 "old-fashioned bathtubs floating through the middle of the city, five howitzers firing from a major downtown bridge, fireworks exploding over a parade." This is probably his reason for also avoiding Chicago Con in May, as he avoided St. Louis Con in October. In case, I am disbelieved, Ron, I'm enclosing a clipping of this article so you can verify it. **VERIFY IT RON IN YOUR FIRST SENTENCE!!!**

I'd like to see Bob in his bathtub as undoubtedly thousands of Wichitan will. He will probably transform his bathtub into a hot dog instead of an airplane or a Conestoga wagon. I'm sure he will go to the outdoor cooking contest and the pancake feed as well as the ice cream social. Ron, please verify that all these "events" are in the newspaper article that I am sending to you.

In fact, Mr. Olsen only makes sense in one part of his letter: his comments about Bruce Linsey. Let Mr. Linsey find his own feuds to carry out (admittedly a hard task for him) and leave me and Bobby alone. I say this statement even though I fervently believe that one Southerner is the equal of ten Yankees. But, I ask you all who are reading this, who among you is capable of standing up to both Linsey and Olsen at one time? (Not to mention the fact that both of them could bore all of us to death with verbosity!---and often have!!!)

But let me conclude this. For over 1 year I have been answering these ridiculous charges of Mr. Bob Olsen and frankly I'm getting tired of trying to reach his obviously unreachable sense of reason. He, I have sadly concluded, Ron, is a hopeless case, beyond all reason and help. I feel sorry for him. But, you know with all of his ability to irritate, he still doesn't qualify as an "obnoxious Yankee" --- that title which he most covets!

That's all I have to say this go-round. Any sensible man would admit that he has been beaten fair and square but that hasn't stopped Mr. Olsne before now so I doubt it will stop him now. Well, till later, Ron . . .

Sincerely,  
Gary

(( Well, yes, Gary that's what the newspaper article says alright! Gary sent along an article from the New York Times News Service which describes "The Wichita River Festival" being held from May 7-16 in which 50 bathtubs etc. will be celebrating during the festival. Any comment, Bob? - RB ))

\* \* \* \* \*

#### MURD'RING MINISTERS STANDBY LIST

DIPLOMACY - Larry McCloud, Keith Mercer, Ron Kelly, Steve Hartman, & Dan Gorham.  
Anyone want on or off?

## WRAP-UP

Well, that's it for another issue. You may be getting an all-reading issue of MM before too long. I'm going to cut this one off here so I can get these here game results out to you ASAP. I'd like to know if you would prefer an all-reading issue or two between now and September or if you'd rather me save the articles up for a special 50th issue. Yep, MM #50 will be coming up before you know it! Let me know your preferences, OK? Until next time, keep those knives sharp, You never know when you'll need one! Happy stabbing!

## GAME OPENINGS

Regular DIPLOMACY - Preference list accepted, grey press, first seven paid players are in. This one will start as soon as I have seven signed up. You must maintain a subscription to MM to play, Gamefee = \$6.00, \$3.00 NMR deposit.

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Would you please standby in \_\_\_\_\_  
on pg. \_\_\_\_\_?

See page \_\_\_\_\_

We trade \_\_\_\_\_

Wanna trade? \_\_\_\_\_

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